The pay of *pakuthi* officials should be suitably enhanced. The duties of *Proverthikars* and Accountants were many and onerous. The increase should be granted by reducing certain higher appointments and reducing the salaries of some high officers.

The rates of *taravila* fixed in the *Puduval Rules* were unduly high. The price of even cultivated land not having doubled itself during the year 1091-1097, there was no justification for raising the *taravila* from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10. This led to a fall in the demand for *puduval lands* during the years 1097 to 1100. The discretion vested in the revenue officers was often exercised with a view to add to the revenue of Government. Large areas of surveyed lands remained unassigned; auction sales in the Kunnatnad taluk had not attracted bidders for more than a thousand acres. Tahsildars followed no definite principle in estimating *taravila* and Peishkars often decided without local inspection. The State should be divided into groups with due regard to soil, productivity, etc., and definite *taravila* fixed and notified for each class of land.

The *tarisu* lands in the Vengur, Cheranallur and other *pakuthies* adjoining the forests had been cultivated with lemon grass. The Tahsildar considered the occupation and improvements not *bona fide* and leased the lands on Kuthakapattam in auction. If the assignment of the land was unobjectionable, there should be no hesitation to register it on moderate *taravila* to the man who had improved it.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayanan Krishnan, in regard to the subject of *pakuthi* cutcherry buildings upon which you touched, I may state for your information that Government are working on a definite programme of construction of *pakuthi* cutcherries according to type designs and that the construction of five such offices is to be taken up this year. The rest will be worked up, as I said, on a definite programme.

2. The other points stated by you will receive consideration in due course.

8. Change of kist months from Tulam-Vrischikam to Vrischikam-Dhanu.

MR. KANAKKU GOVINDAN VELAYUDHAN (*Member, Parur taluk*) requested that the dates of payment of *kist* might be changed from the 15th Tulam and 15th Vrischikam to the 20th Vrischikam and 20th Dhanu, in Parur and the neighbouring taluks. The intention of the Government in fixing the first two instalments in Tulam and Vrischikam was to adjust it to the season for the paddy harvest. But in Parur the wet lands being on a low level were free from brackishness only after the monsoon and cultivation began only at the end of Edavam or early in Mithunam. The harvest was reaped at the end of Kanni or early in Tulam. It was not therefore possible for the ryots to sell the paddy and pay the *kist* before the 15th Tulam, as it would be in a marketable condition only by the end of the month. They were therefore forced to sell the paddy to middlemen and bankers at low prices for paying the tax in time. The condition of the ryots who had cocoanut gardens was also similar as the crop was scanty and good prices could not be obtained in winter. The losses due to floods were common; the yield had been gradually going down of late; and the tax on the wet lands was comparatively high. The change in the *kist* months would be a great boon to the ryot who laboured under such difficulties. The change proposed had been made in the Quilon Division and would, without causing any loss or inconvenience to the Government, add substantially to the prosperity of the people. An investigation should therefore be made and suitable orders passed.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Govindan Velayudhan, I understand you belong to the Kottayam Division. In the Quilon Division, the Government have recently changed the *kist* months to Vrischikam-Dhanu as a tentative measure and the effect of the change is being watched. Before deciding on introducing the same change in the Kottayam Division, Government will have the matter enquired into and reported upon by the Land Revenue Commissioner.

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